Course Title: The History of the Modern Middle East  
Course Code: HIS 198  
Instructor: Marwan D. Hanania, PhD

Course Summary:

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

• Identify the major turning points in modern Middle Eastern history from the late Ottoman period to the present.
• Analyze the role played by individual leaders and global powers in shaping the Middle East.
• Understand the major socioeconomic and political processes that have shaped the history of the modern Middle East.
• Understand some of the different scholarly perspectives on key issues such as the legacy of European colonialism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the impact of oil, the rise of nationalism, and the role of political Islam in the region.

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

• No Grade Requested (NGR)
  o This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  o Score will be determined by student attendance and participation. Students must attend a minimum of 6 sessions and actively participate in class to receive credit.
• Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  o Grading will be based on student attendance and participation as well as an 8-10 page written paper that addresses a major theme pertaining to the modern Middle East.

Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 (June 20 & 23): The Breakup of the Ottoman Empire and the European Colonial Period
  • The Capitulations and Increasing Economic Dependence on Europe
  • Imperialism and Modernity
  • The Young Turk Movement
  • World War I and the Arab Revolt
  • The Era of the Mandates

Week 2 (June 27 & 30): Nationalism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
  • Herzl and the Inception of Zionism
  • Jewish Immigration and the Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism
  • The Politics of the British Mandate
  • The 1947-1949 War and the Creation of Israel (1948)
  • The Free Officers Movement in Egypt
  • The Suez War of 1956 and the Consolidation of Arab Nationalism
  • The 1967 War and Its Aftermath

Week 3 (July 7): The US and the Middle East
  • The Historical Role of the United States in the Region
  • The Role of Oil in Middle East Politics
  • The 1973 War
  • King Faysal of Saudi Arabia and the Oil Embargo
  • US Policy Toward Iraq and Iran

Week 4 (July 11 & 14): Political Islam
  • Origins and Major Theorists
  • The Muslim Brotherhood
  • The Islamic Revolution in Iran
  • The Lebanese Civil War and the Rise of Hizbollah
  • The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and the Founding of Hamas
  • The Rise of Al-Qa‘ida
  • ISIS, al-Nusra, and other extremist organizations

Week 5 (July 18 & 21): The Arab Spring and Recent Civil Wars
  • The Origins of the Arab Spring
  • Events in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt
  • Events in Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, and Syria

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